

11298

Dear Senator Goodell:

The President has asked me to respond to your telegram of June 12 concerning the preservation of cultural monuments in Cambodia.

So far as U. S. ground forces are concerned, this problem of course no longer arises. However, I am glad to report that we took steps before the action began to protect such monuments. Military commanders in the field were given the locations of important archaeological and cultural monuments, and were told to avoid endangering them. This still applies to any U. S. air operations. Similar instructions were given to GVN military commanders, and I understand that the Government of Cambodia also took comparable action.

Your suggestion that all parties to the current struggle seek to protect the monuments is valid. With our encouragement, U Thant made an appeal for the protection of the monuments. At Cambodian request, the UNESCO sent an expert to Cambodia to advise on protection of the monuments. I understand that he has commended the Cambodian efforts in areas which they control.

I hope that the other side shows similar concern. Their occupation of the ruins at Angkor raised doubts on that score in a situation in which this Government has little influence.

I certainly share your concern, and I hope that it will be possible to assure that the monuments are spared.

Warm regards,

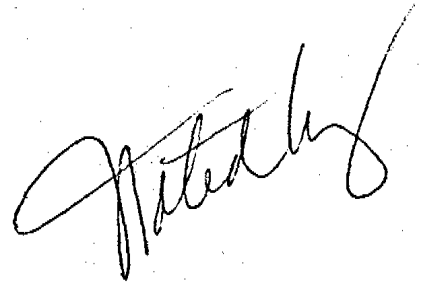
(S) *my HAK 7/20*

Henry A. Kissinger

Honorable Charles E. Goodell
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

JHH:LGGrant:mlr:7/15/70

June 17, 1970



Dear Senator Goodell:

This is to acknowledge your June 12 telegram to the President urging that the armed forces avoid any action that might destroy any part of the ancient Capital of Cambodia at Angkor or the Khmer art collection in Phnom Penh.

Sincerely,



William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Charles E. Goodell
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

~~bcc:~~ w/inc to Dr. Kissinger - for appropriate consideration
bcc: w/inc to Ken BeLieu - FYI

WET:EF:jj

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WASHINGTON DC 12 155P EDT

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE HUMAN LIVES LOST IN WAR ARE INVALUABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE
IRREPLACEABLE MONUMENTS AND OBJECTS OF GREAT VALUE CAN ALSO
BE LOST FOREVER THROUGH ACTS OF WAR WHILE THE PROTECTION OF
HUMAN LIVES MUST BE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN DECIDING HOW
OUR ARMED FORCES WILL CONDUCT THEIR OPERATIONS CONSIDERATION
MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO IRREPLACABLE MONUMENTS AND WORKS OF ART

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA WHICH ARE NOW BEING
CONDUCTED AND SUPPORTED BY OUR NATION THREATEN TO DESTROY THE
UNIQUE KHMER MONUMENTS AT ANGKOR AND THE PRICELESS COLLECTION
OF KHMER ART IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN PHNOM PENH

I URGE YOU TO INSTRUCT ALL PERTINENT COMMANDS OF OUR ARMED
FORCES TO AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT DESTROY ANY PART OF
THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF CAMBODIA AT ANGKOR OR THE KHMER ART
COLLECTION IN PHNOM PENH I URGE YOU ALSO TO EXERT WHATEVER
INFLUENCE OUR GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE WITH THE LEADERS OF OTHER
NATIONS AND FORCES INVOLVED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA

IN ORDER TO REACH A COMMON AGREEMENT TO PRESERVE THESE CAMBODIAN
TREASURES

FINALLY I URGE YOU TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT THE POLICY
OF OUR NATION WILL BE TO RESPECT THE MONUMENTS AT ANGKOR AND
THE KHMER ART COLLECTION IN PHNOM PENH SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT
WILL CONSTITUTE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF OUR GOOD INTENTIONS EVEN
AGAINST THE PRESSURES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR OUR MILITARY
OPERATIONS SPARED THE CITIES OF PARIS AND KYOTO THE POLICIES
WHICH GUIDE OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA MUST BE EQUALLY
FAR-SIGHTED

CHARLES E GOODELL UNITED STATES SENATOR.

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11298

July 15, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: Letter to Senator Goodell on Angkor Wat

Here is a re-do of the Goodell letter, as you suggested.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the letter at Tab A be machine signed.

Attachment

JHH: LGrant:mlr:7/15/70